markers and the mediator production after LPS stimulation were quite similar for both groups. In conclusion, we did not observe hyper-responsiveness of monocytes to *P. gingivalis* LPS challenge in Thai patients with aggressive periodontitis.

J Dent Res. 2004; 83(7): 540-5.

PREVALENCE AND DIVERSITY OF *BARTONELLA* IN RODENTS OF NORTHERN THAILAND: A COMPARISON WITH *BARTONELLA* IN RODENTS FROM SOUTHERN CHINA

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We report results of the first study to investigate the distribution and diversity of *Bartonella* in rodents from Thailand. Whole blood from 195 rodents, representing six species, was tested for the presence of *Bartonella* species using standard culture techniques. Isolates were obtained from 17 (8.7%)of the samples, and 14 of those isolates represented distinct strains, based upon partial sequencing of the citrate synthase (*gltA*) gene. Phylogenetic analysis of the isolates and other *Bartonella* species indicated that five unique isolates from *Bandicota indica* form a cluster that may represent a new *Bartonella* species. Two additional isolates from *B. indica* clustered together, and were nearly identical to an isolate from *Apodemus draco* collected in southern China. Importantly, a number of the isolates from Thailand rodents are closely related to *B. grahamii* and *B. elizabethae*, species which have been associated with human illness.

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TUNEL AND LIMITED IMMUNOPHENOTYPIC ANALYSES OF APOPTOSIS IN PAUCIBACILLARY AND MULTIBACILLARY LEPROSY LESIONS

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Some mycobacterial infections, such as tuberculosis, are characterized by apoptosis of infected or by-stander mononuclear immune cells. For localized (paucibacillary, PB) and disseminated (multibacillary, MB) leprosy, characterized by polarized Th1-like vs. Th2-like immune responses, respectively, little is known about lesional apoptosis. We analyzed sections of paraffin-embedded, untreated leprosy lesions from 21 patients by an indirect immunofluorescent terminal deoxy-nucleotide-transferase-mediated dUTP-digoxigenin nick end labeling (TUNEL) assay. Some TUNEL (+) PB sections were then reacted with phycoerythrin-conjugated (red)antibodies against T cells, monocytes, or antigen-presenting (Langerhans)cells. TUNEL (+) bodies were detected in 9 of 16 PB lesions (56%)and in 1 of 5 MB lesions (20%). Some TUNEL (+) bodies in PB disease were CD3+ (T cell), as well as CD4+ (T-helper) or CD8+ (T-cytotoxic). Apoptosis characterizes PB and MB leprosy lesions and may be more frequent in PB disease. In PB disease, some TUNEL (+) bodies may derive from T cells.

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